

June 29, 2004

To Interested Parties:

The draft *Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan System-wide Performance Measures*, prepared by the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) program, is available for review. This review is one step in RECOVER's process for developing technical documents that ultimately will be transmitted to the lead Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementing agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), for their consideration. This review process does not constitute the formal agency or public review that may be conducted by the implementing agencies.

RECOVER is seeking comment on the content, comprehensiveness and technical merits of the proposed system-wide performance measures contained within this document. It includes the indicators of the natural and human systems that will be used to evaluate the predicted performance and to assess the actual performance of the CERP implementation. The performance measures help to guide plan formulation and evaluation, as well as determine overall success, of the CERP projects, track progress towards meeting interim goals and interim targets, and serve as a basis for an annual CERP report card to the public.

This report presents the currently proposed or accepted set of measures developed by RECOVER. It explains

- the differences between the evaluation and assessment measures;
- how they are developed, applied, and new measures accepted;
- the legal framework supporting them;
- a description of each performance measure;
- a quantitative target or restoration expectation; and
- how each measure will be evaluated with simulation models or monitored in the field.

This document will serve as a reference for those implementing the CERP and overseeing its progress and will be updated periodically by RECOVER as new scientific and technical information warrants.

The role of RECOVER is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting the objectives of the CERP. RECOVER links science and the tools of science to a set of system-wide planning, evaluation and assessment tasks. These links provide RECOVER with the scientific basis for meeting its overall objectives of evaluating and assessing the CERP performance, refining and improving the plan during the implementation period, and ensuring that a system-wide perspective is maintained throughout the restoration program.

A compendium of the system-wide performance measures, originally requested by RECOVER leadership in April 2002, culminated in a limited review by RECOVER members during the summer of 2003. This June 18, 2004 version reflects those changes proposed by RECOVER members and additional refinements by an editorial team.

Comments solicited via this letter will be incorporated as appropriate with other comments to produce a final *Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan System-wide Performance Measures* product. It will then be forwarded to the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District. Once accepted, it is anticipated that the performance measures will continue to be applied to plan and monitor the CERP projects. At that time, it will be widely distributed for its use and application.

The entire document, divided into four parts: introductory and background sections, evaluation performance measures, assessment performance measures and Appendix A, can be downloaded from <ftp://ftp.sfwmd.gov/pub/pln/wsp/recover/>. Comments on the document should be submitted by July 23, 2004 by completing a comment form found on the same ftp site. We encourage the submission of comments from multiple reviewers to be integrated on a single form whenever it is possible. Completed forms should be submitted electronically to Brenda Mills, bmills@sfwmd.gov, and Kim Jacobs, kjacobs@sfwmd.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the review of this document. We look forward to your responses. Should you have any questions, please contact one of us at the above email account.

Sincerely,

Kim Jacobs
Senior Environmental Scientist
SFWMD

Brenda J. Mills
Lead Planner
SFWMD